

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9340

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN

SUBJ: FINANCIAL TIMES AEROSPACE CONFERENCE

1. MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT WITH FINANCIAL TIMES (FT), HAS DISCUSSED WITH US HIS NEWSPAPER'S PLANS TO CO-SPONSOR WITH ZIFF-DAVIS PUBLISHING COMPANY AN AEROSPACE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN SAN FRANCISCO, OCTOBER 14-15. THEME OF CONFERENCE WILL BE "US-EUROPEAN COLLABORATION IN AEROSPACE--ITS PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS." FT HAS STARTED TO LINE-UP LEADERS OF EUROPEAN AEROSPACE INDUSTRY AS SPEAKERS FOR CONFERENCE. LETTERS HAVE BEEN SENT TO SIR KENNETH KEITH, ROLLS-ROYCE, SIR ARNOLD HALL, HAWKER-SIDDELEY, ZIEGLER, AIRBUS INDUSTRIE, CRISTOFINI, AEROSPATIALE, BOELKOW OR BLOOM, MBB, AND HEAD OF SAAB-SCANIA. ON U.S. SIDE, ZIFF-DAVIS WILL BE ATTEMPTING TO LINE-UP SIMILARLY HIGH-POWERED GROUP OF SPEAKERS FROM U.S. INDUSTRY. FT DOES NOT PLAN TO ASK ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO SPEAK AT CONFERENCE BUT MAY TRY TO GET MAYOR OF SAN FRANCISCO FOR OPENING CEREMONIES.

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2. FT, RESPECTED BRITISH NEWSPAPER, ALSO ENJOYS DESERVED

LY GOOD REPUTATION IN EUROPE FOR BEING ABLE TO ORGANIZE FIRST-CLASS CONFERENCES WITH TOP-FLIGHT SPEAKERS WHICH ATTRACT INFLUENTIAL CROSS-SECTION OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INDUSTRY LEADERS AND ACADEMICIANS. SAN FRANCISCO ENGAGEMENT WILL BE ITS FIRST BIG CONFERENCE IN U.S.

3. WE BELIEVE SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE ON THEME OF US-EUROPEAN AEROSPACE COLLABORATION IS A VERY WELCOME INITIATIVE ON PART OF FINANCIAL TIMES AND ZIFF-DAVIS. BY THE TIME IT TAKES PLACE, EUROPEAN AEROSPACE WILL HAVE REACHED MOMENT OF TRUTH IN ITS EFFORT TO MOUNT, THROUGH INTRA-EUROPEAN COLLABORATION, A COMPETITIVE THREAT TO US INDUSTRY AT LEAST IN LARGE CIVIL TRANSPORT FIELD. CONFERENCE THEREFORE SHOULD PROVIDE USEFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR U.S.-EUROPEAN COMPETITION OR COLLABORATION IN AEROSPACE FIELD.

4. USG WOULD NOT APPEAR TO HAVE A ROLE IN CONFERENCE PLANNING BUT IF ASKED BY INDUSTRY OFFICIALS, WE BELIEVE US AGENCIES SHOULD ENCOURAGE THEIR PARTICIPATION.

SOHM

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